



CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 West Chester Street
Long Beach, New York 11561
(516) 431-1001
Fax: (516) 431-1389

May 7, 2015

Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker,

We would like to extend our gratitude to your department for holding the Long Beach Medical Center forum on April 13th at City Hall. As you may know, the City's hospital has been closed since Superstorm Sandy struck Long Beach and the entire barrier island on October 29, 2012. In October 2014, South Nassau Communities Hospital acquired the damaged and closed Medical Center.

We are pleased to hear that South Nassau will be building the Long Beach Medical Arts Pavilion, which will include an off-campus Emergency Department, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will house other potential services such as family medicine, dialysis, pediatrics, behavioral health, physical therapy and ambulatory surgery. South Nassau's temporary Emergency Department is slated to open on July 1, 2015, and the City has already augmented its emergency services through an EMS partnership with South Nassau. We strongly believe that *all* of the hospital facilities our barrier island needs and deserves should be restored.

To that end, we are writing to renew our call to update the decade-old Berger Report to independently determine the medical needs of our community. On March 5, 2014, a letter was sent to your predecessor, Dr. Nirav Shah, requesting that an up-to-date study, similar to the 2006 Report of the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the Twenty-First Century, be specifically performed for the City of Long Beach and the entire barrier island community to address our need for hospital services immediately.

It has been 14 months since we called for an update to the antiquated Berger Report, and we are extremely anxious to know if and when the Report will be completed and made available to the City and our residents.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Very Truly Yours,
City of Long Beach City Council

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